

## **MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE**

Meningococcal disease, an acute bacterial disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, is most commonly manifested as meningitis, but it is also reportable if confirmed in other normally sterile sites. The disease is characterized by a sudden onset of fever, intense headache, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, and often a petechial rash. Delirium and coma often appear and fulminant cases may exhibit sudden prostration, ecchymoses and shock. With early diagnosis and therapy the case fatality rate is between 5% and 15%. Transmission of the organism is from person to person through infected droplets of discharges from the nose and throat, more often from infected carriers than from cases.

### **Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:**

- Isolation of *Neisseria meningitidis* from a normally sterile site (such as blood, CSF, or less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).

### **Case Classification**

*Confirmed:* A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

*Probable:* A case with a positive antigen test in CSF or clinical purpura fulminans in the absence of a positive blood culture.

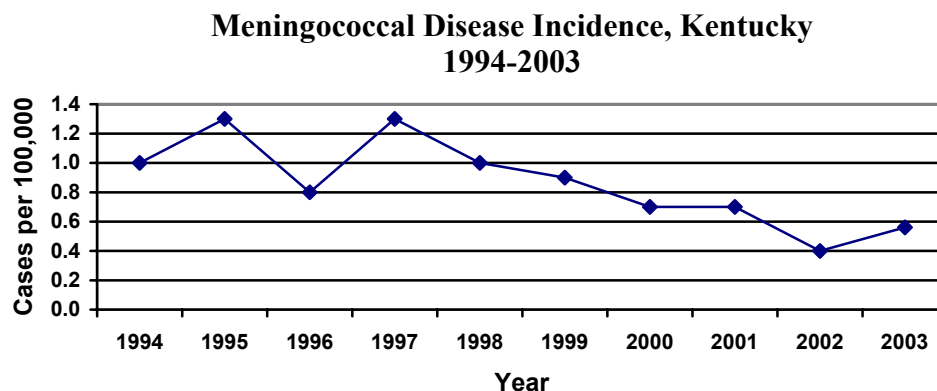
### **Comment**

Positive antigen test results alone from urine or serum samples are unreliable for diagnosing Meningococcal disease.

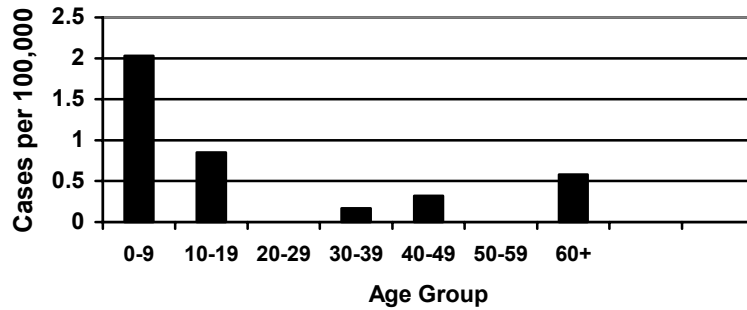
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### **Epidemiology**

<b>Kentucky 2003</b>	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>	<b>Cases by Gender</b>	<b>Rate by 100,000</b>
Cases 23	0.56	Female 10	0.48
		Male 13	0.65
<b>U.S. Rate (2002)</b>	0.64		



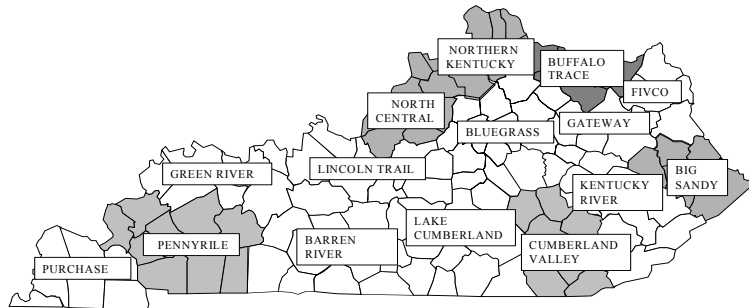
### Meningococcal Disease, Age-Specific Incidence Kentucky, 2003



The highest incidence was in the 0-9 year age group, with 2 of the cases 6 months or younger in age.

### Meningococcal Disease by District Annual Incidence per 100,000 2003

0.0-0.5	
0.6-1.0	
1.1-2.0	



#### Area Development Districts

Area Development Districts	Cases	Rate per 100,000
Pennyrile District	2	0.9
Green River District	1	0.5
Barren River District	1	0.4
North Central District	9	1.0
Northern Kentucky District	3	0.8
Buffalo Trace District	1	1.8
Big Sandy District	1	0.6
Cumberland Valley District	2	0.8
Bluegrass District	3	0.4